

THE GARZETTE

W4GR

Volume 17, Issue 03

147.075+

444.525+5mhz

53.110 -1mhz

From the Presidents Mic!



QST! QST! de **WA4ZXV, Norm Schklar**

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We have a new slate of officers, well maybe the old slate with some modifications. We're off to a great start; we've had our first Executive Committee meeting. We're talking about a few different items, and maybe an additional operating event the year. The program ideas are very interesting, and I hope that you'll be able to attend most of them. You are also likely to be called to participate or present a program. Don't be bashful, step up and cause a great program to happen.

I worked some of the 2008 ARRL International DX Contest this past weekend. First time I've worked a contest in years. I was spurred to the event knowing that one of our members, Mike (ND4V), was working the event from Costa Rica. I worked them on three bands, but missed them on 160 and 10 meters. I didn't make a lot of contacts, but enjoyed making the ones I did make. If you haven't tried working a contest, you might try it. Who knows, the bug could set in and the local radio store will be glad to help you enhance your station. Actually, many of the stations I worked were operating with 100 watts or less. If you would like to know more about contesting, just contact Kyle, W4KDA and let him know. I'm sure he'll be glad to find someone to put on a program.

I've had occasion recently to talk about Amateur Radio in my community. One of the items that seems to catch the listeners attention is that Amateur Radio stations are independent and don't really require any infrastructure other than electricity, and many of us have standby power equipment. We can generally set up communications with stations several hundred miles away. While we can't take care of everyone's communications needs, we get priority messages to the hands of the proper authorities. The ugly giant erector set structures in our back yards are one of the tools that make these communications possible. We should all be preparing and practicing for the community talk.

Speaking of the nasty tall metal structure in the back yard, this month's meeting is the "Strange Antenna Challenge" presented by Arnold Solomon, KC4ZUA and Bill Perkins, KB4KFT. Hope to see you there!

March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 2 m Club net @ 2000	4	5 6m Club net @ 2100	6	7	8 Breakfast 0730
9	10 2 m Club net @ 2000	11 club meeting	12 6m Club net @ 2100	13	14	15 Breakfast 0730
16	17 2 m Club net @ 2000	18	19 6m Club net @ 2100	20	21	22 Breakfast 0730
23	24 2 m Club net @ 2000	25	26 6m Club net @ 2100	27	28	29
30	31					

The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or email to ka4kkf@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary. In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*.

GARS Recurring Calendar

- Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Check the Web Site for Location.
- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2 meter repeater
- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: GARS 6 meter net on the GARS 6 meter repeater
- Every Saturday at 7:30 AM local time: GARS Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

Election Results:

President: Norn Schklar, WA4ZXV (incumbent),
 Vice-President: Earl Whatley, AF4FG (incumbent),
 Secretary: Randy Collins, N4COR (incumbent),
 Program Manager: Kyle Albritton, W4KDA,
 Treasurer: Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ

The GARZETTE is published each month with the assistance of Hal Manning, who prints the news letter. Rick Patchin, KD4RFK does the final production work on *The GARZETTE* by folding & labeling. Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Norm Schklar, wa4zxv, manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors. Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue. For any additional information contact: Newsletter Editor:

David Adcock ka4kkf
 (770-271-9398)
ka4kkf@arrl.net

All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
 P.O. Box 88
 Lilburn, GA 30048
 Attn: Newsletter Editor

Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.arrl-ga.org

First Saturday, Even Months

9:00AM
EOC Building
Butch Nitz, AF4FS
(770) 968-8780

First Wednesday

7:00 PM
ARRL/VEC
Roberts School
4681 School Street,
Acworth
Jodi Escher AG4BK
770-387-1591

Second Tuesday

7:00PM
Walton EMC
3645 Lenora Church Rd,
Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA
(770) 498-7759

Second Saturday, Odd Months

ARRL VEC
8:30 AM
Stone Mountain Methodist
Church
5312 West Mountain St.
Stone Mountain
Bob Varone, W4ETN
(770) 978-3179

Third Saturday

CA VEC
9:00AM
Marietta First United
Methodist Church Room 305,
56 Whitlock Ave
Marietta
David Still, WB4RRD
(770) 973-2566

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC
7:00 PM
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road,
Douglasville

Starting in April**Third Sunday**

W5YI VEC
3:00 - 5:00 PM
Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge
465 South Perry Street
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
770-963-5721

Fourth Sunday

2:30 PM
Georgia Tech Student Center
Room 301
David Ziskind, KE4QLH
(404) 966-6864

Metro Atlanta Club Meetings**First Tuesday**

Kennehoochee ARC
Southern Polytechnic
State University
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
Talk In 146.880(-)

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC
Room W218
Van Leer Electrical
Engineering Bldg.
Georgia Tech Campus
Meeting at 7:00 PM

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club
Georgia Red Cross HQ
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta
Meeting is at 7:30 PM
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library
Meeting is at 6:30 PM
Talk In - 147.225(+)
PL 123.0

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club
Annistown Road Baptist Church
Intersection of Annistown Rd
& Spain Rd
Stone Mountain
Dinner at 6:00 PM
Meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 146.760(-)

Third Tuesday

**North Fulton Amateur Radio
League**
Alpharetta EOC located at
2970 Webb Bridge Road, in Alpharetta
meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 145.47(-)

First Saturday

North GA QRP Club
Wieuca Baptist Church on
Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, 10 AM

Build Something!

By KB6NU

A couple of years ago, a group of us were talking on the club repeater, and the talk got around to building stuff. One of the guys said, "You can't really build anything anymore." I almost fell out of my chair. That's simply not true. Heathkit may be just a fond memory, but there are still many companies out there selling kits that are not only fun to build, but are useful additions to the ham shack.

Here are a couple of sources:

- Elecraft (www.elecraft.com). In my mind, Elecraft has become the premiere ham radio kit company, if not the premiere ham radio company, period. The new K3, for example, outperforms just about anything on the market by many accounts. Personally, I have built the KX-1, which is a real blast to operate from a park bench or to take on vacation. I also have and use the W1 wattmeter.
- TenTec (radio.tentec.com/kits). While perhaps known more for their ready-made rigs, they also sell a line of single-band transceivers and receiver kits.
- QRP Kits (www.qrpkits.com). QRPKits.Com sells kits that were originally projects of the Northern California QRP Club. My current General Class students are going to build the DC40A kit (\$40) as an exercise in building and as a way to learn about how radios work.

Below are some other companies whose kits have good reputations, but with which I have no personal experience:

- * Small Wonder Labs (www.smallwonderlabs.com)
- * Wilderness Radio (www.fix.net/~jparker/wild.html)
- * Milestone Technologies (www.mtechnologies.com)
- * Almost All Digital Electronics (www.aade.com/index.html)
- * FAR Circuits (www.farcircuits.net)
- * Jackson Harbor (home.att.net/~jacksonharbor/ham.htm)
- * QRPme (www.qrpme.com/)
- * Linear Amp UK (www.linamp.co.uk)

QRP clubs are also a good source of cool kits. The problem with QRP clubs is that they order parts only for a very short run of kits. Once they sell out, the kits are no longer available. Even so, here are some clubs that are worth checking out:

- * American QRP Club (www.amqrp.org)
- * Four State QRP Club (4sqr.com/kits/kits.htm)
- * NORTEX (www.kk5na.com/nortex.htm)

Ready to rock and roll?

Here are a couple websites that you might want to check out before you dive in:

- * Electronic Construction from A to Z (www.mtechnologies.com/building/atoz.htm). This site includes a page that lists all the tools you'll need to become a successful kit builder.
- * Crystal Sets to Sideband: A Guide to Building an Amateur Radio Station (www.qsl.net/k3pd/book.html). This site not only discusses kit building, but also radio theory.
- * The Art of Kit Building (ww2.netnitco.net/users/wt9w/kit%20building.html)

I hope that I've whetted your appetite for building a kit or two. They're a lot of fun to build, and you really do get a rush from operating a radio or using a piece of test equipment that you built yourself.

What have you built lately?

Let Dan know. Email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Word Search
By Bill Cherepy WB4WTN

R O A N T E N N A N M
M A E B T O K A O O E
E N Y D E E L I C I O
L D C C N I T I C T T
O A O W N A V A A A U
P S O C I E T Y M G O
I O O V W M U P A A N
D I E D G O E Q T P M
D D N U O R G L E O O
G A Y A E S U F U R M
A R R L S E R A R P F

Alinco
Amateur
ampere
antenna
ARES
ARRL
beam
code
deviation
dipole
frequency
ground
Gwinnett
ICOM
Kenwood
morse
propagation
Radio
Society
Yaesu

6 Meter Lemonade, 53.11 Each

by

Kyle Albritton W4KDA

The old proverb goes something like, "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

That is exactly what the GARS troops did on January 9th this year. It seems a dirty potentiometer in the GARS 6 meter repeater took it off line for a spell. But the regular 6 meter net participants did not want to miss the net. Instead of suspending the net, a last second decision was made to execute the net on FM simplex. There was no time to let people know the net was going to move to simplex, so the net was held on the output frequency of the repeater. In this way, people who listened to check into the net could hear net control's instructions to call in on the output frequency without an offset. During the net, the net control appointed several attendees to call for check ins via relay for participants who could not hear net control on simplex.

The whole exercise worked quite well! The 6 meter net recorded 8 check ins that night, which is about half of the usual number.

The moral of this true story is that equipment fails, usually at the worst time. During an emergency you can count on the DSL going out, cell towers being jammed, a repeater can run out of back up power, and telephone lines do go down. If a critical repeater is down (and *only* if it is down), you can still pass critical traffic by using a repeater's output frequency.

Hope to talk with you all on the 6 meter net real soon!

Proposed ByLaw changes

Current:

H.5. Immediately upon assuming office the President shall appoint a Trustee. The Trustee shall handle those duties assigned by the GARS officers.

Proposed change:

H.5. The President shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the Club officers, a Trustee for the Club Station License. The Trustee shall be a current club member and shall be responsible for any and all matters pertaining to the club license. The length of the Trustee's term shall be at the discretion of the President.

Digital Saturday

Gwinnett ARES has scheduled a seminar and workshop on digital technologies and operation for **Saturday, March 29 from 9:00am to 3:00pm**. The session has been designed to give participants two different opportunities to learn about various digital technologies and get a hands-on experience that are useful in emergency communications. One hour classes will be scheduled throughout the day with basic Packet setup and operation, D-Star operation and programming, PSK31 and Winlink 2000.

The location for the workshop will be Gwinnett Innovation Park, Building F at One Meca Way, Norcross located off of Shackleford Road near Gwinnett Place Mall. Seating will be limited for each class. Signups will begin in early March with more details to come.

Upcoming Hamfest in the area.

Mar. 15 55th Annual Kennehoochee Hamfest Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club
Jim R. Miller Park - Marietta, GA
<http://www.w4bti.org>

April 26 Calhoun Hamfest Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society
<http://www.k4woc.com>
Sugar Valley Community Center
Sugar Valley, GA

June 7 Georgia Section Convention
Atlanta Radio Club (W4DOC)
Marietta, GA Jim Miller Park
<http://www.atlantahamfest.com>

July 12 Lanierland ARC
<http://www.lanierlandarc.org>
Gainesville, GA

August 9 Ellijay Ham Fest 2008
Ellijay Lions Club
Ellijay Amateur Radio Society (W4HHH)
<http://www.qsl.net/w4hhh/>

Do you know a boy or girl
14 to 21 years old
who wants to:

Climb, Hike
Canoe, Camp
Talk on an amateur radio
Have Fun
Tell them about

Venture Crew 73

**We meet the second Tuesday
of each Month at 7:00PM
prior to the GARS meeting at
St. Marguerite D'Youville
Church..**

For more information Visit
www.gars.org/crew73
or contact Ray Back:

Email crew73@gars.org
Phone (770) 295-9174

GARS Communication System

70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud
W4GR

6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)
82.5 PL Tone

D-Star

2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

Main Repeater Site

Oak Street, Lawrenceville

Backup Repeater Site

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Remote Receive Sites

Bogan Road, Buford

Goshen Springs Road,
Norcross

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Net Needs Net Control Operators!

If you would like to be net control and learn how to operate the net, contact Scott, KF4PWI. We are looking for 2m and 6 m net control operators to fill in the empty spaces in the rotation.

kf4pwi@arrl.net

Field Day 2008 Rules and Forms

Now Available (Feb 8, 2008) -- It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for Field Day, ARRL's flagship operating event. Field Day, held the fourth full weekend in June, brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says there are several rules changes this year, mainly concerning "Get on the Air" (GOTA) stations and the elimination of the Demonstration Mode Bonus Category. The complete Field Day Packet can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site. A full 2008 Field Day page on the ARRL Web site will be coming in the next few weeks.

GARS

APPAREL ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE # _____

CALL: _____

NAME TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

CALL SIGN TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

ITEM	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
T-SHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$20.00	
White WITH name & call			\$20.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$24.00	
White			\$24.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$28.00	
White			\$28.00	
SWEATSHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$30.00	
White WITH name & call			\$30.00	
LIGHTWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$31.00	
WITH name & call			\$35.00	
HEAVYWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$41.00	
WITH name & call			\$45.00	
GARS BADGE -- WITH name & call			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$9.00	
White			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$14.00	
White			\$14.00	

TOTAL ORDER PRICE: _____

Please attach your check made payable to GARS and return to Amy Woodrick, KE4IKF or mail to:

GARS
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Georgia 30048

NOTE: Please allow at least 4 weeks for delivery of items. Some items may need to be special ordered.

Thanks and 73s! -- Amy KE4IKF

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW MEMBER

RENEWAL

Amateur Call Sign _____	License Class	Novice	Technician	General
		Advanced	Extra	

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email address _____

Home Telephone _____ Work Telephone _____

Cell Telephone _____ **Date of Birth** ____/____/____ (mm/dd/yy)

ARRL Member	Yes	No	Life
--------------------	-----	----	------

Interests _____

I prefer to receive the GARZETTE newsletter by: US Mail Email (please check only one)

Type of Membership

Individual \$30.00 annually
Student \$15.00 annually
Senior \$15.00 annually (over age 65)
Family ** \$35.00 annually

**** Available for family members residing at the same address**

Optional Contributions

Repeater Fund \$ _____

Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Additional Family Members **

Name _____ **Date of Birth** ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class	Technician	General	Extra	ARRL Member	Yes	No	Life
---------------	------------	---------	-------	-------------	-----	----	------

Interests _____

Name: _____ **Date of Birth** ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class	Technician	General	Extra	ARRL Member	Yes	No	Life
---------------	------------	---------	-------	-------------	-----	----	------

Interests

I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and understand that membership is subject to the approval of the Club.

Applicant Signature _____ **Date** ____ / ____ / ____

GARS Appreciates these fine sponsors that support our great organization!

**GWINNETT COLLISION
CENTER, INC.**

305 Sharon Ind. Way
Suwanee, Georgia 30024
945-0161
Import and Domestic
Unibody and Frame Repair
Marty Fowler, KE4MLH Mark Justice

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Manager
KJ4VO

6071 Buford Highway
Atlanta, GA 30340 (Doraville)
770-263-0700 1-800-444-7927
Fax 770-263-9548

Mark KJ4VO

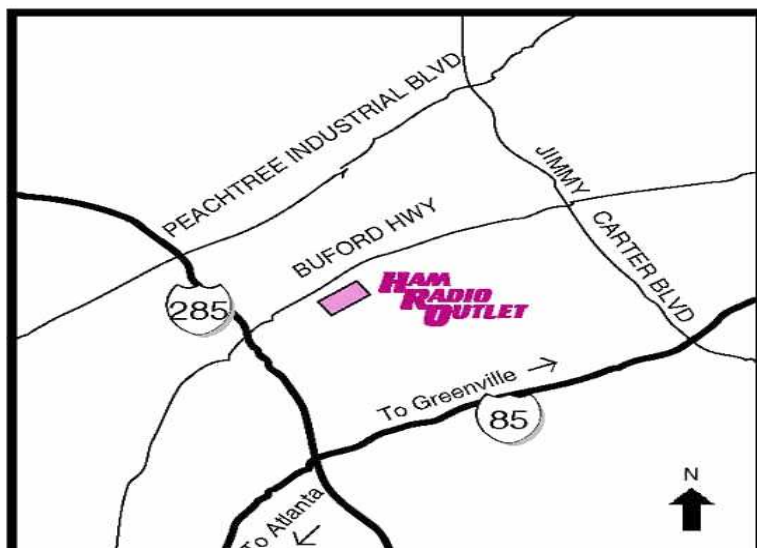
Tim W4EGT

David KE4VDH

Dale W4GCL

Bill KF8AZ

Josh W4JDH



Alinco
Icom
Japan Radio Corp
Kenwood
Premier
ADI
Yaesu
Alpha Delta
Arrow
Butternut
Create
Cushcraft
Diamond
Force 12
Hustler
Hy-Gain (Telex)
KLM
Larsen
M2
Premier
Valor
Van Gorden

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048



To receive the **Garzette** via e mail contact, please contact the membership chairman

Saturday Morning

Breakfast

Join us at the Golden Coral
on Riverside Drive in

Lawrenceville at 7:30 a.m.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 11th

The Meetings are on the
Second Tuesday of the
month 7:30pm at the
St Marguerite
D'Youville Church,

85 Gloster Rd NW,

Lawrenceville, GA 30044.
Just off Highway 29 SW
of Lawrenceville.

Directions on the Web
site.

<http://www.gars.org>

PRUDENTIAL GEORGIA REALTY

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sharon@sharonadcock.com

You need an EXPERT on
Your team when
BUYING or SELLING
Real Estate

11+ Years Experience of
listening and filling YOUR
needs



Prudential
Real Estate

www.sharonadcock.prudentialgeorgia.com

GARS Specialist
Top Negotiator
Top Agent



Helping "HAMS" with the Sale and
Purchase of their properties takes
Extra Time, Effort and Dedication.
Not every agent is willing to make
that Commitment.

Call me for when You or Your Friends
and Family are ready to Make a Move.

**References available upon Request